

The Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford



St Joseph and the English Martyrs, Bishop's Stortford
Holy Cross, at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham
Most Holy Redeemer, Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth
Parish Priest: Fr Peter Harris • Assistant Priest: Fr Carlos Quito

Parish Office: Windhill Churches Centre, 1st Floor • 10am - 3pm Monday to Friday
Postal Address: 3 Windhill, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM23 2ND
Tel: 01279 654063 • Email: bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk • Website: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bishopsstortford>
Live streaming from St Joseph's: www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford
Diocese of Westminster Charity No. 233699

Sunday 19th January 2020 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9am Mass – Maria Cecilig RIP
11am Mass – Ray Asser RIP
6pm Mass – People of the Parish

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)
9am Mass – Margaret Tomkins RIP

Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham):
11.15am Mass – People of the Parish
12.45pm Baptism – Audrey Rose Marçal

Monday 20th January – St Fabian, Pope and Martyr
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9.30am Mass – Maria Helen Pattie RIP

Tuesday 21st January – St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr
St Joseph and the English Martyrs
9.30am Mass – Austin Anthony Fernandes RIP

Wednesday 22nd January – St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
NO MASS

Thursday 23rd January – feria
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9.30am Mass – Yvonne Newton RIP

Friday 24th January – St Frances de Sales, Bishop & Doctor
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9.30am Mass – Brigid & Matthew Carleton RIP

Saturday 25th January – The Conversion of St Paul the Apostle
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
5pm-5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Sacrament of Reconciliation
6pm Mass – Kenneth Cornelius RIP

Sunday 26th January – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9am Mass – Johnny Quinn RIP
11am Mass – Private Intention
6pm Mass – People of the Parish

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)
9am Mass – Bryn Phillips RIP

Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham):
11.15am Mass – People of the Parish



'Here I am Lord! I come to do your will'

FIRE MARSHALL TRAINING

Come and learn what to do should a fire break out in the Church and how you can help to safely evacuate fellow Parishioners. Training (approx. 1 hour duration) will be provided free by 'Precision Safety Services' on Tuesday 21st January 2020 at 7pm in the WCC. Refreshments provided.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE - There are now only 6 places open for our parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The cost is £1333 for 7 nights in a shared room accommodation with return flight from Luton Airport. If you are interested to join, please see Fr. Carlos or contact the Office in order to receive a Booking form/ Brochure
BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE 2020 – The next Baptism course with Fr Carlos will be Thursday 12 March 2020 at 7.30pm in the WCC. Please contact the office to book a place.

VINNIE PACKS -The SVP are distributing 11,500 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. To donate (£3.50 per pack is suggested), please send cheques payable to SVP to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ, or to donate by bank transfer to NatWest sort code 60-60-04, account number 4608 8237.

FOODBANK- The Bishop's Stortford Foodbank is especially grateful to St. Joseph's parishioners for their very generous donations in the run-up to Christmas. We have stopped collecting for the time being but please look out in the Newsletter for details of our next collection period. However Most Holy Redeemer and Holy Cross continue to collect for the food bank throughout the year
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON GROUP- Post Christmas tea... at Doreen's house, 12 Salisbury Close, from 2 p.m. on Jan 22. Come and catch up with everyone, all welcome. For further information, lifts etc. ring Doreen on 325326 or Jill on 657575

SPUC COLLECTION – Thank you for your generosity last weekend £929.63 was collected and sent off.

CAFOD INFORMATION MORNING - Saturday 25th January 10am-12.30pm, Lambeth North. CAFOD will be hosting a supporter's information morning with a guest speaker, who has first-hand experience of work in Zimbabwe. Come and hear how CAFOD is helping communities, CAFOD's Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB Bookings required - 0208 449 6970 or e mail westminster@cafod.org.uk

RCIA – The next session on Monday 20th January 2020 at 8pm in the WCC will discuss 'The Path to Holiness; The 7 Sacraments'.

SAFEGUARDING IN OUR PARISH

'Safeguarding is everybody's right, Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility'

The Church has a responsibility to ensure all those who undertake work in the name of the Church are adequately trained in safeguarding matters.

The Catholic Trust for England and Wales has purchased a package of e-learning programmes available to ALL members of the Catholic community **FREE OF CHARGE**. This is part of the Church's ongoing commitment to safeguarding. These modules include:

- Child Protection
- Child Protection in Education
- Child Exploitation & Online Safety
- Safeguarding Adults
- Mental Capacity

What do I need to do to access this training resource?

1. To register your interest please email: safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk
2. Your email should contain your name, the name of your parish and your role (for example: Catechist, Eucharistic Minister, Youth Worker; Teacher; SVP/Volunteer; Parent/Grandparent/Guardian; Other.
3. On receipt of your email the safeguarding administrator will register your email address with EduCare.
4. You will receive a welcome email from EduCare inviting you to set your password.
5. You will then have instant access to the training programmes.

ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO SIGN UP TO THIS FREE TRAINING

'LEARN FROM ME' – Distance-Learning Certificate Courses for all involved in Parish Ministry or who desire to go deeper into their faith and understanding – information evening **Thursday 23rd January, 7.30pm – 9.00pm**, Vaughan House, 46, Francis Street, London, SW1P 1QN. Come and learn about what is involved in studying any of the courses on offer: Certificate in Parish Ministry and Mission (CPMM), Certificate in Catechesis (MCC) and Catechesis on Marriage and Family (MFL). All courses begin in March 2020. To register interest and for further information, contact Anna Dupelycz at annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk or telephone 020 7798 9026.

CHARITY BARN DANCE - (in aid of Across Bishop's Stortford Jumble) – Saturday 7th March 2020 at St Joseph's School – details to follow...



PEACE SUNDAY

This Sunday, 19th January, is "Peace Sunday". In this year's message (full text can be found online) Pope Francis states "Peace is a great and precious value, the object of our hope and the aspiration of the entire human family.... Peace emerges from the depths of the human heart and political will must always be renewed to find ways to reconcile and unite individuals and communities". There are envelopes at the back of the church if you would like to support the work of Pax Christi; **Children**, there is a special peace card for you to take and colour in and perhaps give to someone you know who you think is good at making peace.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY from 18-25 Jan takes the theme 'Unusual kindness' reflecting on how our Christian faith leads us to see all 'others' as sisters and brothers. Daily prayers can be found by searching the internet for 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020' and following the links. **St Andrews with Holy Cross have arranged a special jointly led service this week on Monday 20th January 2020 starting at 3pm which will last 45 minutes. All are very welcome.**

NILAND CONFERENCE CENTRE- at Rosary Priory Bushey Celebrating Christian Unity - Saturday 25 January (2-5pm) with prayer, talk and discussion on *Unusual Kindness: local community outreach*, and Afternoon Tea. Home baking is welcomed. Please register for planning purposes. Donations welcome.

A LIFELINE FOR MARRIAGES

Is your marriage stressed, unloving, cold?
Do you want to improve your communication?
Have you separated, divorced, are you thinking of doing so?

Do you want to try again?
The **Retrouvaille** programme may be just what you need!
Next programme commences with a weekend **28th 29th Feb & 1st Mar 2020**

For more information

Tel or Text **0788 729 6983** or **0797 338 0443**
(Complete confidentiality assured.)
Email; retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com
Website : www.retrouvaille.org.uk



Parish Administrator: Debbie Jackson
Parish Office: 01279 654063 (9am-3pm Mon - Fri)
Parish Centre Bookings and All Enquiries::
bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk
Safeguarding enquiries only:
bishopsstortfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk



Collections 11/12 January 2020 Loose Coin & Envelopes
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
Collection: Loose- £749.51 Envelopes- £621.20
Holy Cross
Collection: Loose- £53.51 Envelopes-£10
Most Holy Redeemer:
Collection: Loose- £74.31 Envelopes-£43



Baptism: Forms and information are available from the Parish Office.
Marriage: enquiries call the Parish Office or email
RCIA: Applications closed
First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion
Applications closed
Confirmation: Applications closed

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy; hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All the earth shall bow down before you,
O God,
and shall sing to you,
and shall sing to your name, O Most High!

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who govern all things,
both in heaven and on earth,
mercifully hear the pleading of your people
and bestow your peace on our times.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel,
in whom I shall be glorified";
I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord,
my God was my strength.
And now the Lord has spoken,
he who formed me in the womb to be his
servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
to gather Israel to him:
"It is not enough for you to be my servant,
to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring
back the survivors of Israel;
I will make you the light of the nations
so that my salvation may reach to the ends
of the earth."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 39

Response:

Here I am, Lord!
I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. (R.)
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. (R.)
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. (R.)
4. Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians.

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle,
together with brother Sosthenes, send
greetings to the church of God in Corinth,
to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are
called to take their place among all the saints
everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus
Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours.
May God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ send you grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on the King who comes,
in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven
and glory in the highest heavens!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 1:29-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John
said, "Look, there is the lamb of God that
takes away the sin of the world. This is the
one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming
after me who ranks before me because
he existed before me. I did not know him
myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel
that I came baptising with water." John also
declared, "I saw the Spirit coming down on
him from heaven like a dove and resting on
him. I did not know him myself, but he who
sent me to baptise with water had said to me,
'The man on whom you see the Spirit come
down and rest is the one who is going to
baptise with the Holy Spirit.' Yes, I have seen
and I am the witness that he is the Chosen
One of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all bow during the next three lines)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,
that we may participate worthily in these
mysteries,
for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is
celebrated
the work of our redemption is accomplished.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

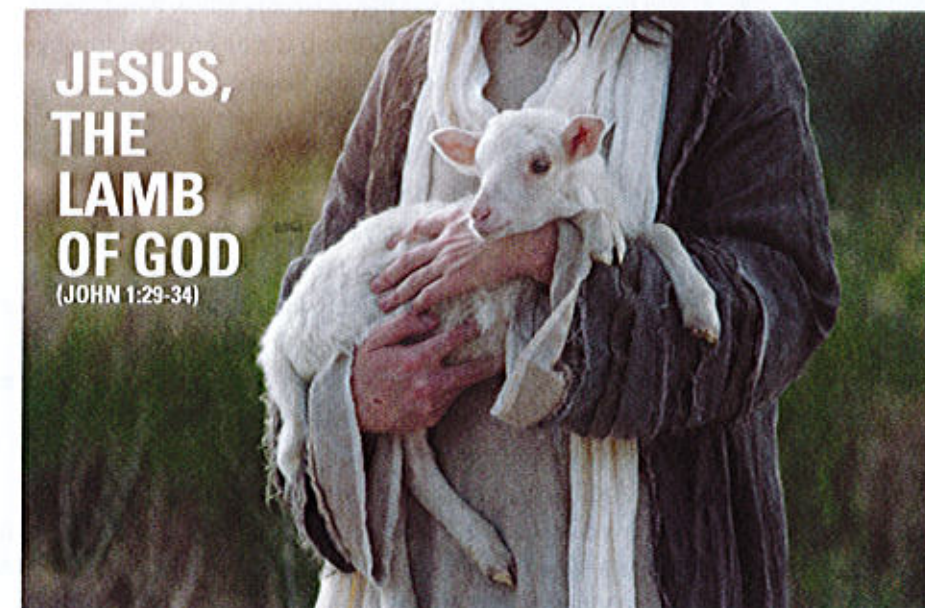
You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice that
quenches my thirst.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love,
and in your kindness
make those you have nourished
by this one heavenly Bread
one in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE WORD

Year A • Psalter Week 2



Today, we begin our series of Gospel extracts in which we consider, week by week, the ministry and teachings of Jesus. As usual, the first main character we encounter is John the Baptist.

Although the readings throughout the year will be taken from the Gospel according to Matthew, the current episode comes from the Fourth Gospel, that according to John. The baptism of Jesus is not reported or described as in the other three versions, but it seems to be presumed. The Baptist is the inspired witness to Jesus and sets the scene for us to understand better who Jesus is and what his mission entails. John's knowledge of Jesus comes from revelation, from God, and it is John who sees the Spirit in the form of a dove coming down from heaven and resting on Jesus, a detail we find in the other accounts of his baptism.

John tells us that Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world: he brings the Holy Spirit; he is the Chosen One (or the Son) of God. We might note that the Baptist talks about the sin (singular) of the world. He is not thinking of petty transgressions or the laundry-list of penitents in the past: the sin of the world is a much more serious affair, and refers to an underlying sinful condition, which manifests itself in attitudes and actions. Jesus' baptism will be more powerful than that of John, as Jesus will baptise with the Holy Spirit. Thus the scene is set for the rest of our Gospel readings throughout the year. ■

REFLECT

One of the themes running through the Fourth Gospel is that of replacement: Jesus replaces in himself the main institutions of Judaism, such as the Temple in Jerusalem, and the feasts such as Passover. Jesus is the Lamb of God, the means by which God enters human history and offers reconciliation with himself.

We might consider today this expression of God. Throughout the Bible, God is the

one who takes the initiative in reaching out to us, human beings. God reveals: God is not discovered. John the Baptist is a messenger, sent by God, as the evangelist tells us. Jesus himself is the Word of God become flesh, God's final and most direct way of communicating with human beings. The bond which God chooses to form with us is not a contract but a covenant of life and love, a relationship so close that it can be used to illustrate and explain the marriage bond.

SAY

There is the Lamb of
God that takes away
the sin of the world

(John 1:29)

LEARN

The expression "Lamb of God" can refer to the Passover lamb of the Exodus story.

It can also allude to the Suffering Servant of Isaiah.

The Servant takes the guilt of the sinful people upon himself and suffers on their behalf.

DO

Look at the host when the priest lifts it up before communion: renew your belief that Jesus is present in the consecrated bread and wine.



The Gospel readings are not extracts from a biography of Jesus: they are the living word of God addressed to us today, inviting us to reflect on our own relationship with God which was expressed and sealed, not by the blood of sacrifice but by the water of baptism. Is this difficult to believe? Is it too good to be true? To be God's servant, perhaps, but God's friend? What do you think? ■